

Grace Episcopal Church  
Scripture 202: An Overview of the Bible  
Fall & Winter, 2011/2012

## Syllabus

**Course:** *An Overview of the Bible*

**Purpose:** To give the student a comprehensive overview of the Bible, the tools used for the serious study of the Bible, and the spiritual and theological implications of the Bible for the practicing Christian in the modern era.

**Instructors:**

The Very Rev. Daniel P. Richards, 341 Washington St, TC, MI 49684  
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**Texts:**

*An Introduction to the Bible: Revised Edition*, Clyde E. Fant, et. al. © 1991, 2001, Abington Press, Nashville, TN. ISBN 0-687-08456-3.  
(\$10.00 - \$27.06 Amazon.com)

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible: NRSV with Apocrypha; 4<sup>th</sup> edition*, Michael D Coogan, Editor, et.al., © 2010, Oxford Press, the World.  
ISBN 978-0-19-528955-8 (\$25.62 new Amazon.com)

**Class Meets** at Grace, 341 Washington St, TC, MI on Wednesdays, 6:30pm – 8:30 pm

**Session Overview:**

6:00 pm	Light /potluck or catered meal, free will offering
6:30 pm	Prayer and devotion by class member
6:35 pm	Instruction/Discussion on Bible on assigned texts
7:20 pm	Break
7:30 pm	Reflection/ Discussion on spiritual, theological, tradition and practice for the modern era on assigned texts
8:15 pm	Evening Prayer or Compline

Date	Topics and Readings
Class 1: Sept 7 2011	† Introductions † Review of Syllabus and Expectations † Timeline of History & Newspaper † Perspectives on Creation Creation 1: Genesis 1:1- 2:4 Creation 2: Genesis 2:5 – 25  Assignment for next week: Chapter 1
Class 2: Sept 14	† The Bible and Western Culture: † Bible? Review of the creation of the English Bible  Assignment for next week: Chapter 2
Class 3:	† Bible Study Tools 1: Biblical Criticism

Sept 21	✚ Bible Study Tools 2: Tools and Reference Work ✚ Bible Study Tools 2.5: Internet as a BST  Assignment for next week: Chapter 3
Class 4: Sept 28	✚ Origins and Development of the Bible ✚ Process of Translation  Assignment of next week: Chapter 4
Class 5: Oct 5	✚ Cultural and Geographic context ✚ Archaeological Discoveries  Assignment for next week: Chapter 5
Class 6: Oct 12	✚ Hebrew Origins & Early History ✚ Exodus  Assignment for next week: Chapter 6
Class 7: Oct 19	✚ Era of the Judges  Assignment for next week: Chapter 7
Class 8: Oct 26	✚ United Kingdom and the Yahwistic history  Assignment for next week: Chapter 8
Class 9: Nov 2	✚ Divided Kingdom  Assignment for next week: Chapter 9
Class 10: Nov 9	✚ Prophecy  Assignment for next week: Chapter 10
Class 11: Nov 16	✚ Preexilic Prophets  Assignment for next week: Chapter 11
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>Thanksgiving and Advent</b>
Class 12: <b>Jan 4 2012</b>	✚ Exile, exile, exile  Assignment for next week: Chapter 12
Class 13: Jan 11	✚ Judah restored <b>Declare topic for presentation</b> Assignment for next week: Chapter 13
Class 14: Jan 18	✚ Psalms and Wisdom Literature  Assignment for next week: Chapter 14
Class 15: Jan 25	✚ Judaism in the Hellenistic and Roman Era  Assignment for next week: Chapter 15
Class 16: Feb 1	✚ Daniel and the Books of the Apocrypha  Assignment for next week: Project presentations
Class 17: Feb 8	✚ Project Presentations  Assignment for next week: Chapter 16

Class 18: Feb 15	† Life and Teachings of Jesus  Assignment for next week: Chapter 17
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Easter</b>
Class 19: <b>Apr 11</b>	† Oral Tradition † Gospel of Mark  Assignment for next week: Chapter 18
Class 20: Apr 18	† Gospel development part 2 † Matthew, Luke, John  Assignment for next week: Chapter 19
Class 21: Apr 25	† Early Church † Acts of the Apostles <b>Declare topic for presentation</b> Assignment for next week: Chapter 20
Class 22: May 2	† Paul and his mission field  Assignment for next week: Chapter 21
Class 23: May 9	† Paul and his writings  Assignment for next week: Chapter 22
Class 24: May 16	† Developing Institutional Church  Assignment for next week: Chapter 23
Class 25: May 23	† Church in Conflict  Assignment for next week: Project Presentations
Class 26: May 30	† Project Presentations on New Testament
<b>Expectations</b>	† Pray † Purchase the texts † Attend classes † Fellowship with class members † Read, study, & do assignments † Be willing to share insights on the Bible † Create 2 topic papers for presentation. One on Hebrew Bible and one on New Testament.  Pick a section of scripture and prepare a report, bible study, devotion, poem, painting, powerpoint, song or sermon about that scripture based on the tools we have learned about. Be prepared to share your results with class. Bring copies to share.
	† In case of snow day, we will "bump" the calendar by a week.